



TOWNSHIP OF
EAST ZORRA-
TAVISTOCK

Tax Instalment

Just a friendly reminder that the 2nd instalment of interim taxes is due on May 30th. If you do not have your tax bill that was mailed at the end of January, please contact the Township Office.

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"Your adventure begins in Oxford County. Travel scenic rural back roads to explore eclectic culinary delights, artisans, festivals, cycling and hiking trails nestled amongst rolling hills and tranquil waters. Natural wetlands and woodlots set the stage for a birder's paradise. Pack your cooler or picnic basket and discover Oxford's unique communities and places in between". Visit www.tourismoxford.ca to learn more about things to do this summer in our very own Oxford County.

Eazy Talk

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

MAY 2014

VoterLookup.ca - Check the List!

Check the List So You Don't Get Missed!

Having an accurate up-to-date Voters' List will make it easier and more efficient for the voting public and election staff when electors cast their ballots for the October 27th Municipal Election. This year, instead of the traditional Municipal Enumeration Form, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) has designed Voterlookup.ca as an online service to help prepare the final Voters' Lists used for Election Day.

In a few simple steps, residents can confirm and update their information for both municipal and school board elections. If residents discover they are not on the preliminary list, they will be prompted to submit their information online to MPAC in order to be added to the voters' list.

Residents have until mid-July to visit Voterlookup.ca to confirm or update their voter information. This is also an opportunity to check if other persons at your residence are included. This could mean children who have recently become eligible to vote, or to have them removed from the list if they have moved away from home and are eligible to vote at their new place of residence. Remember, if the children are students, they are eligible to vote at home as well as where they go to school. If you are a landlord, please make your tenants aware of this opportunity to be added to the Voters List, as very often, MPAC does not have the correct tenancy information. Are you new to the Township? Make sure your electoral information is updated. We want to ensure that every elector in EZT has the opportunity to cast their ballot.

Information collected through this online service will be used by MPAC to prepare the Preliminary List of Electors for delivery to the Township on July 31st. After that date, voters not on the list, or with inaccurate information, will be required to visit the Township office to fill out the appropriate forms before voting. At that time, you will be asked for proof of identity and residency, or to complete an application and declaration to prove your right to vote.

Electors need only their basic information - name, address and date of birth or their assessment roll number to confirm their eligibility for the upcoming elections. If assistance is required, users can contact MPAC at 1-866-296-6722, or please feel free to contact the Township Office for assistance by calling 519-462-2697. Staff here will be happy to assist you.

Information from Voterlookup.ca is provided to municipalities for the sole use of the upcoming municipal and school board elections. Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act requirements state that information shared with MPAC for electoral purposes may only be shared with other electoral agencies.

Please take this opportunity to check the list so you don't get missed. Further information and a link to Voterlookup.ca has also been provided on the Elections Page of our website at www.ezt.ca/Elections.

HAVE YOUR SAY.
LOG ON TODAY.



Capture Spring and Summer now that it's Finally Here!

After a very long old-fashioned Ontario winter, it's time to document proof that Spring has finally arrived in East Zorra-Tavistock.

A very common topic among EZT residents visiting the office these past several months is the WEATHER! Most individuals lamented they could not wait for spring.

Our digital photo frame at the front desk needs some new updates to the collection.

With all that EZT talent we have out there, perhaps take some time and send us your spring or summer photos (nothing that looks like winter!)

Please keep in mind when taking your photos that the newsletter is not printed in colour; however, we do post them on our website in full colour as well as display them via a digital photo frame at the front desk in the office.

As always, entries can be emailed to ezt@ezt.ca in .jpg format or you may stop by the office in Hickson and drop off a 5 x 7 print by July 15, 2014. The winning entry will be published in the August Newsletter.

Show your EZT spirit and show your community your photographic skills and encouraging photos of the long awaited warmer weather!



Join the



And say . . .

“I am PREPARED”

Congratulations goes to **Carolyn Jackson** of Hickson, as the winner of a portable generator in the 72-Hour Club campaign. Over a 10 week period she put together an extensive Emergency Preparedness Kit for her family, including her two dogs.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the campaign leading up to Emergency Preparedness Week, May 4 - 10. Emergency preparedness starts with you!

The 72-Hour Club will be an ongoing initiative encouraging residents of East Zorra-Tavistock to better prepare themselves for emergencies. Show us how you are prepared, share ideas on preparedness through social media and sign up for Keep Me Informed alerts for timely emergency-related information. And build a kit today!

An emergency survival kit can help you and your family survive for up to 72 hours when prepared properly. Tailor your kit to your family's needs and be sure to maintain your kit by checking its contents regularly and replacing any used or expired items. Ensure your entire family knows where the emergency kit is located.

Plan on Digging?

Plan on digging in the near future? Constructing a fence or deck; digging a pool or pond; installing a driveway; re-grading; trenching; or any other ground breaking activity regardless of the location, these are scenarios when you should be getting locates.

Effective April 25, 2014, the Township will no longer be taking locate requests from area residents or contractors. EZT is now an official member of Ontario 1 Call and all calls for locates will be coming through their service.

The Township is happy to be a part of the new system and look forward to working with ON1CALL to improve safety for excavators as well as decreasing wait times. If you plan on digging, please call Ontario 1 Call at 1-800-400-2255 or visit their website www.on1call.com. It is a free 24hr service.



Message from the Mayor



Generosity leads to prosperity! That was the topic of my message in the last newsletter and I was amazed at how much discussion it generated. I want to thank each of you that provided comment and encouragement. Even more exciting to me is to see your generosity in action. The community events and fundraisers this spring have been extremely successful not only in raising money but in building the relationships of friends and neighbours.

Continuing the theme of prosperity, let's look at community prosperity or as many refer to it as economic development. Oxford County is embarking on a Community Sustainability Plan that will provide a framework for economic prosperity while ensuring personal and social wellness factors and environmental factors are addressed. The Townships of Norwich, South West Oxford, Zorra and East Zorra-Tavistock have just formed a Rural Oxford Prosperity Corporation. This initiative will support existing businesses to survive and grow their opportunities, and will seek to attract and assist new business opportunities in our rural communities. I would ask you to support these two initiatives and attend community engagement meetings that will be planned in the coming weeks.

I attended a workshop this spring discussing economic development in urban communities and was shocked to hear that most of the money and energy is focused on attracting

foreign investment and new franchise stores. Absent from the discussion was the reality of our current economic picture. Most of the jobs and investments that support our communities are small businesses or had their roots in small local business ventures. So I ask the obvious question, do we need a new economic growth strategy or do we rely on the old strategy? How was it that the old strategy worked? Why did so many people start their own business? What skills did they have that lead to their success.

What was your first job? How did you earn your first dollar? If you are over 50 you probably will remember having a paper route, babysitting, or doing odd jobs for a neighbour or relative. Necessity was a wonderful teacher. If you wanted a dollar you went out and earned it. You actually started earning money as an entrepreneur! You did something useful and got paid according to its usefulness. You experienced the challenge and the rewards of hard work. You experienced the success and fulfillment of a job well done. You gained confidence and took risks for even bigger opportunities.

A lot has changed in the last thirty years that makes it harder for our young people to learn these same skills early in life. I trust we as community recognize that if we want to continue to pursue rural prosperity we will need to figure out how to enable young people to learn the skills necessary to start and thrive in small business opportunities. I encourage each of us to be generous and support a young person this summer.

Welcome EZT's New Community Services Officer

EZT's previous Community Services Officer (CSO) Mike Hanna has taken a new position, however, is still working within the Oxford OPP Detachment. He would like to say, "Thank you for the opportunity, experiences and the great memories over the past 3 years working as the Township's CSO". Throughout his 27 years of policing, he states "he has learnt that change generally works for the better. New faces bring new ideas and experience which in turn, creates a better outcome". The Township wishes Mike all the best in his new duties and would like to thank him for his dedication and many hours devoted to the EZT community.

Our new Community Services Officer for the Township is **Constable Darren Bulbrook**. He was raised in Burlington Ontario and prior to becoming a police officer, he had a career as a Licensed Electrician. At the age of 16, Darren moved to Mitchell where he met his wife Sherry. They have been married almost 30 years and have raised four children.

On the Policing side of things, he began his career 24 years ago with the Peel Regional Police Service before going to the Mitchell Police Service. The Mitchell Police Service and the OPP amalgamated in 1996. Darren has worked in the West Region Drug Enforcement Unit, Perth County Property Crimes and the Perth County Crime Unit. He was also a School Resource Officer for three years out of the West Perth OPP Detachment.

Darren came to the Oxford County detachment in September 2013 and began the CSO position in March 2014. He is currently involved with the Tavistock Public School teaching the Values, Influences and Peers (VIP) program to the Grade 6 Class and is looking forward to working with the youth in East Zorra-Tavistock. Darren is very community minded and brings many years of different policing background to the Township.

Welcome Constable Bulbrook!

Council

Mayor & County Councillor

Don McKay

519.532.2500

dmckay@ezt.ca

Deputy Mayor

Maureen Ralph

519.462.2955

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Councillor - Ward 1

Linda Fulton

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Councillor - Ward 1

Clive Lawry

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Councillor - Ward 2

Don MacDonald

519.462.2672

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Councillor - Ward 3

Don Lazenby

519.537.3758

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Councillor - Ward 3

Jeremy Smith

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Council meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am and the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. All meetings are open to the public.

Election Update

Monday, October 27, 2014 is Voting Day. Nominations are now being accepted for Mayor, Deputy Mayor, two Councillors from Ward 1 (Tavistock), one Councillor from Ward 2 (north of the Braemar Sideroad) and two Councillors from Ward 3 (south of Braemar Sideroad). You can stay updated by visiting our website at www.ezt.ca/Township-Office/Council/2014-Municipal-Election/Candidates.

If you are interested in serving on Council, please visit our website or contact the office for details such as meeting frequency, responsibilities and expectations for the position and nomination forms. The filing fee is \$100 for Councillor or Deputy Mayor, and \$200 for Mayor payable by cash, debit or certified cheque. The deadline for nominations is Friday, September 12, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

If you are interested in assisting to count ballots on October 27th, please contact the Office and leave your name and contact information, or email the information to bjunker@ezt.ca. You will need to available that day from 4:00 p.m. until the counting is completed (usually no later than 10:00 p.m.)

Crossing Guard Opportunity

The Township of East Zorra-Tavistock is accepting applications for a Crossing Guard(s) position in **Tavistock**. Please visit the Township website at <http://ezt.ca/Newsroom/Employment.aspx> for more information regarding this position. Applications will be accepted until 12:00 noon, August 1st, 2014 to Revenue Coordinator, Katie Koski at PO Box 100 Loveys St. Hickson ON N0J 1L0 or email at kkoski@ezt.ca.

We thank all applicants for applying and advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted. If you wish to check the current status of filling this position, please check the website.

Personal information is being collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act 1989, as amended, and will be used for employment assessment purposes only.



Office and Facility Contacts

Township Office

90 Loveys Street
Box 100
Hickson ON N0J 1L0
Phone: 519.462.2697
Fax: 519.462.2961
Email: ezt@ezt.ca
Website: www.ezt.ca
Office Hours: Mon - Fri
8:30 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 4:30

County of Oxford

Phone: 519.539.9800
Website: www.oxfordcounty.ca

Tavistock & District Recreation Centre

Phone: 519.655.2102
Fax: 519.655.3560

Tavistock & District Memorial Hall

Phone: 519.655.9992
For Bookings: 519.655.2102

Innerkip Community Centre

Phone: 519.469.3889
For Bookings: 519.539.1340

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